

REMARKS

In this paper, claims 1-3, 6, 12, 13, 16 and 17 are currently amended. After entry of the above amendment, claims 1-22 are pending.

The applicant appreciates the indicated allowability of claims 3-11, 13-15 and 17-19 if rewritten in independent form. Claims 3, 6, 13 and 17 have rewritten to be in independent form, including the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims, so it is believed that claims 3-11, 13-15 and 17-19 are now allowable.

Claims 1, 2, 12, 16 and 20-22 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Ichida, et al (US 7,061,228). This basis for rejection is respectfully traversed.

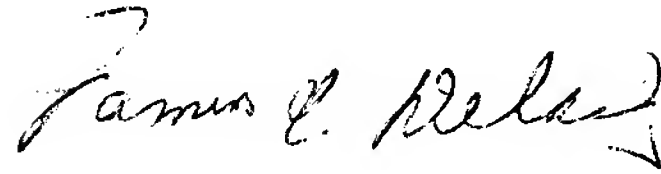
Claim 1 has been amended to clarify that the control unit operates one of the front transmission or the rear transmission in priority to the other one of the front transmission or the rear transmission based on a first travel condition, wherein the control unit operates the other one of the front transmission or the rear transmission in priority to the one of the front transmission or the rear transmission based on a second travel condition. Ichida, et al discloses a bicycle automatic shifting system for a front derailleur (26) and a rear derailleur (28). When the bicycle speed either exceeds a predetermined threshold value or falls below a threshold value in automatic mode, a gear-shift operation is carried out. In the disclosed embodiment, the gear-shift operation is carried out with priority given to the rear derailleur (28) at all times. Ichida, et al neither discloses nor suggests operating one of the front derailleur (26) or the rear derailleur (28) in priority to the other one of the front derailleur (26) or the rear derailleur (28) based on a first travel condition while operating the other one of the front derailleur (26) or the rear derailleur (28) in priority to the one of the front derailleur (26) or the rear derailleur (28) based on a second travel condition.

Accordingly, it is believed that the rejection under 35 U.S.C. §102 has been overcome by the foregoing amendment and remarks, and it is submitted that the claims are in condition for allowance. Reconsideration of this application as amended is respectfully requested. Allowance of all claims is earnestly solicited.

KAZUHIRO TAKEDA, et al  
Application No.: 10/708,264  
Page 8

PATENT

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "James A. Deland".

James A. Deland  
Reg. No. 31,242

DELAND LAW OFFICE  
P.O. Box 69  
Klamath River, California 96050  
(530) 465-2430